

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-19 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/00020. This Preliminary Amendment also adds new claims 20-41. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the drawings, specification and abstract conform the drawings, specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying International PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/00020 includes an International Search Report, dated July 13, 1999, and an International Preliminary Examination Report dated June 6, 2000, copies of which are submitted herewith.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Consideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 10/10/00

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